



Happy
Hispanic Heritage Month!

OLA

The H-OLA Gram

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

OLA's New Director Named on Wednesday, September 3, 2003

The new director of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs is Gustavo F. Velasquez. Mr. Velasquez was formerly with Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he served as Director of Operations. Mr. Velasquez also has private and international sector experience, and was appointed to the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone Community Trust Board and the Philadelphia HIV/AIDS Planning Council by Mayor Street of Philadelphia, PA, and was a founding member of the Philadelphia Affordable Housing Coalition and the Philadelphia Latino Taskforce for Workforce Development. Mr. Velasquez received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and public

administration from the Universidad Iberoamericana, in Mexico City, Mexico, and a Masters in Public Administration from the Fels School of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.



Christia Alou, Interim Director, OLA and Jay Haddock Ortiz, Chairman of the Commission on Latino Community Development, welcome new Director, Gustavo Velasquez to OLA and to Washington, DC.

OLA & The Embassy of El Salvador offered free TPS registration

A week prior to the deadline for Temporary Protective Service (TPS) final registration, on September 15, 2003, the Office on Latino Affairs and the Embassy of El Salvador co-hosted two massive registration events. These events assisted the Salvadoran residents of the Washington metropolitan area in completing all the requirements and forms necessary to renew their TPS, a temporary permit that allows them to work and live legally in the United States. The TPS massive registration was a success, with over 300 participants.



Personnel from the Embassy of El Salvador fill out TPS registrations at the OLA offices

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, September 29—Mayor's Latino Cultural Fair and Town Hall; 5-6:30pm Cultural Fair, 6:30-8:30pm Town Hall, both at Cardozo High School 1300 Clifton Street NW. **Due to Hurricane Isabel, the rescheduled date for this event is Monday, September 29, 2003, same place and time.**
- Wednesday, September 24—Mayor's Commission on Latino Community Development Meeting, 6:30—8pm. All are welcome!
- Tuesday, September 30—OLA & The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs will co-host a Multicultural Merchants Workshop at MPD 3rd District Headquarters, 1620 V Street, NW, Community Room, 2-4pm.
- Tuesday, September 30—OLA Diversity Training for DC Government Employees at 2000 14th St., NW-2nd Floor Conference Room, 9am-12:30pm.
- Saturday, October 18—Mount Pleasant Street Fall Fiesta, 10am-6pm.
- Saturday, November 1—DC Citizens' Summit, 9am-5pm at the New DC Convention Center. Latinos, come to voice your concerns.



**Executive Office of the Mayor,
Office on Latino Affairs**

**Published for OLA
by Sara Sanders**

OLA

**Frank D. Reeves Center
2000 14th Street NW
2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20009**

**Phone: (202) 671-2825
Fax: (202) 673-4557
Email: ola@dc.gov**

www.ola.dc.gov

Mayor Williams Invites You To Citizen Summit III

The Citizen's Summit III is coming. Latinos in all parts of the District of Columbia are encouraged to come to this forum to discuss the City-Wide Strategic Plan (CWSP), and to discuss critical issues of the District of Columbia. Deputy Director of OLA, Christia Alou, said, "This event will give Latinos an opportunity to influence the City's Strategic Plan, and to get information first-hand about the direction of the city as a whole." The Summit will be Saturday, November 1, 2003 at the new Washington, DC Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Mt. Vernon Metro stop from 8am-4pm in Exhibit Hall A. All District Latinos are encouraged to come and participate.

Employment Opportunities

OLA is looking for a college student intern to work on advocacy and government programs for OLA's Director and Deputy Director. This is an unpaid internship but will give the right candidate a chance to learn more about District government advocacy and the political process while working for a dynamic cause, the District's fastest growing community, the Latino community. All interested applicants must send a resume to Christia Alou, Deputy Director of OLA at (202)673-4557 fax. Deadline is October 15, 2003. This is a semester-long program that will begin immediately, and end on December 12, 2003.

OLA continues to recruit Bilingual Community Outreach professionals with a background in health, housing, economic development, education and/or employment. All interested persons must complete a DC 2000 form, which can be obtained at www.dc.gov, go to the Office of Personnel's website for the application and for information on these positions.

OLA, MPD-LLU Collaborate to Celebrate National Night Out

Summer 2003 brought a rash of gang violence to the Columbia Heights neighborhoods.

The District of Columbia's Latino community was shaken this summer by the deaths of Latino youth involved in gangs. Various community members met with the Metropolitan Police Department's special taskforce as well as the Office on Latino Affairs to work together.

Through the course of these meetings the other groups have met including the area's faith-based organizations, which hosted community forums and prayer vigils for youth and their families. On August 5, 2003 the MPD Latino Liaison Unit and OLA co-hosted a National Night Out event on Mount Pleasant and Kenyon Streets to take back the night and promote safe and healthy activities for children. Over 300 people participated in the activities and food. La Mega Radio broadcasted live from the event.



Representatives from the MPD Latino Liaison Unit and OLA work together in their cook out with the Latino community of Mount Pleasant.